

Serial No. 10/620,910

Docket No. 200208821-1

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell assembly, comprising:
a housing having an outer region and an inner region defining a perimeter;
and
at least one fuel cell, including an anode and a cathode, shaped to define a fuel path in the form of an unobstructed gap adjacent to the anode which extends at least once around the perimeter of the inner region and has an upstream end associated with the outer region and a downstream end associated with the inner region.
2. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the housing includes at least one housing inlet associated with the upstream end of the fuel path and at least one exhaust port operably connected to the downstream end of the fuel path.
3. (Withdrawn) A fuel cell assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one fuel cell comprises first and second fuel cells, the fuel cell assembly further comprising:
an oxidant path that extends at least once around the perimeter of the inner region and has an upstream end associated with the outer region and a downstream end associated with the inner region.
4. (Withdrawn) A fuel cell assembly as claimed in claim 3, wherein the housing includes a fuel inlet associated with the upstream end of the fuel path and an oxidant inlet associated with the upstream end of the oxidant path.

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5. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fuel path extends more than once around the perimeter of the inner region of the housing.

6. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fuel path extends at least a plurality of times around the perimeter of the inner region of the housing.

7. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell assembly as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a byproduct outlet region associated with the inner region of the housing.

8. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell assembly as claimed in claim 7, wherein the byproduct outlet region comprises first and second byproduct outlet regions.

9. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell assembly as claimed in claim 7, wherein the fuel path extends at least once around the byproduct outlet region.

10. (Original) A fuel cell assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the housing includes an exhaust port operably connected to the inner region, the fuel cell assembly further comprising:

a heat exchanger associated with the housing and operably connected to the exhaust port.

11. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell assembly as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

at least one reactant supply operably connected to the upstream end of the fuel path.

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12. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fuel path defines a spiral shape.

13. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell assembly as claimed in claim 12, wherein the fuel path defines a substantially curvilinear spiral shape.

14. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell, comprising:
an exhaust region defining a perimeter; and
at least one anode and cathode arrangement having a spiral shape that extends outwardly of and more than once around the perimeter of the exhaust region and defines a reactant path having an outlet end associated with the exhaust region and an inlet end.

15. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell as claimed in claim 14, further comprising:
a byproduct outlet region that defines the exhaust region.

16. (Original) A fuel cell as claimed in claim 14, wherein the exhaust region is defined by a portion of the at least one anode and cathode arrangement.

17. (Withdrawn) A fuel cell as claimed in claim 14, wherein the at least one anode and cathode arrangement comprises first and second anode and cathode arrangements that define substantially coextensive spiral shapes.

18. (Original) A fuel cell as claimed in claim 14, wherein the at least one anode and cathode arrangement comprises an anode, a cathode and an electrolyte.

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19. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell assembly, comprising:
a housing having an outer region, an inner region defining a perimeter and exhaust port connected to the inner region; and
means for converting reactants into electricity and byproducts and directing the reactants and byproducts from the outer region to the inner region, and at least once around the perimeter of the inner region, as the reactants are being converted into electricity and byproducts, such that all of the byproducts and any unused reactants that exit the fuel cell assembly exit by way of the inner region.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell assembly as claimed in claim 19, further comprising:
a heat exchanger associated with the housing and operably connected to the exhaust port.

22. (Original) A fuel cell assembly as claimed in claim 19, wherein the housing includes a fuel inlet associated with the outer region and an oxidant inlet associated with the outer region.

23. (Original) A fuel cell assembly as claimed in claim 19, further comprising:
at least one reactant supply operably connected to the means for converting reactants into electricity and byproducts.

24-42. (Canceled)

43. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fuel path is adjacent to the anode and the cathode.